



State Capitol | Lansing, Michigan 48913

PH (517) 373.1635 | FAX (517) 373.3300

www.senate.michigan.gov/gop/senator/vanwoerkom/

For Immediate Release
April 20, 2004

Contact: Kirk Hanna
(517) 373-1635

Sen. Van Woerkom sponsors bill in package to create Michigan Merit Exam as MEAP replacement

LANSING – A bipartisan group of Michigan senators today announced a five-bill package replacing the Michigan Educational Assessment Program test for high-school students with the Michigan Merit Exam. The new comprehensive test, based in part on an existing college-entrance exam, would prepare students for college and the workplace.

The legislation follows the recommendations of the Education Alliance of Michigan, which issued a report earlier this year urging the Legislature to study the replacement of the high-school MEAP test.

“Changing the MEAP test to a nationally recognized college-entrance exam will help Michigan high-school students compete on a more level playing field,” Van Woerkom said. “Switching from the MEAP to the Michigan Merit Exam also may result in additional classroom dollars.”

Senate Bill 1156, sponsored by Van Woerkom, would amend the law so eligibility for receiving the Michigan Merit Award would be based on a student’s performance on the new Michigan Merit Exam instead of the MEAP.

The Michigan Merit Exam would use a combination of a college-admissions test, a workplace skills exam and a social studies component to measure student knowledge. The test would first be administered to students in 2006. The effort is supported by a broad coalition of state leaders in secondary- and post-secondary education.

“We have found strong support for this change,” said Donna Oser, Executive Director of the Michigan Parent Teacher Student Association. “Replacing the MEAP with a college-entrance exam appeals to parents because their child will be taking a test that has recognized national credibility.”

The college-entrance exam to be used is not designated in the legislation.

###

**Photos from the news conference will be available online at
www.senate.michigan.gov/gop/photowire.**